

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00

FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12

SPC-03 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 L-03 DRC-01 /127 W

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R 091230Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5005

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USDOC WASHDC

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT - PARA 3, LINE 4)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, GB

SUBJECT: TRANSGABON RAILROAD

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS EXIM

1. IN LONG TALKS WITH VION (DIRECTOR OF OCTRA) NOVEMBER 8, LATTER SAID THAT JAPANESE, WHO WERE RECENTLY IN GABON, HAD INDICATED DEFINITE INTENT TO PARTICIPATE IN SOMIFER THROUGH ACQUISITION OF EQUITY. FINAL ARRANGEMENTS HAVE NOT YET BEEN MADE BUT NEGOTIATIONS UNDERWAY.

2. VION SAID THAT JAPANESE DECISION, AFTER YEARS OF HESITATION, HAD COME ABOUT AS RESULT JAPANESE RECENT REEVALUATION OF THEIR IRON ORE REQUIREMENTS IN NEXT FEW YEARS FOLLOWING DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION OF PEKING. VION SAID JAPANESE STEEL PRODUCTION WHICH HAD DROPPED TO 130 MILLION TONS NOW EXPECTED TO GO UP TO 200 MILLION OR MORE IN NEXT FEW YEARS AS A RESULT OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EXPORTS TO PRC AND ALSO INCREASED EXPORTS TO SOVIET

UNION. JAPANESE, THEREFORE, NOW INTERESTED IN PURCHASE  
OF BELINGA ORE AND PARTICIPATION IN SOMIFER.

3. VION WENT ON TO SAY THAT GABONESE SUGGESTION TO BETHLEHEM  
FOR RELINQUISHING 50 PERCENT OF THEIR PARTICIPATION WAS  
MADE NOT REPEAT NOT WITH THE IDEA OF GOG RETAINING THIS  
EQUITY BUT IN BELIEF THAT GOG COULD FIND OTHER INTERESTED  
PARTIES TO WHICH GOG WOULD THEN RESELL. GOG REASONING  
WAS THAT, DESPITE ITS CLAIMED WILLINGNESS TO CEDE  
PART OF ITS EQUITY, BETHLEHEM ACTUALLY DRAGGING ITS FEET  
AND THAT GOG COULD BE MORE SUCCESSFUL IN BRINGING IN  
MORE PARTICIPANTS IN SOMIFER WITH GREATER SENSE OF  
URGENCY IN OPENING MINE.

4. VION SIAD THAT GOG PROPOSAL TO BETHLEHEM HAD TAKEN  
PLACE BEFORE LATEST JAPANESE DECISION AND THAT IF NEGOTIATIONS  
BETWEEN JAPANESE AND BETHLEHEM (OR SOMIFER) WERE SUCCESSFUL  
GOG WOULD DROP ITS REQUEST FOR PARTICIPATION AS GABONESE  
OBJECTIVE WOULD HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: SUGGEST DEPARTMENT PASS ABOVE INFORMATION  
TO JORGE SCHNEIDER OF BETHLEHEM STEEL.

6. DECLASSIFY ON RECEIPT.MCKESSON

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 09 NOV 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** elyme  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
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**Subject:** TRANSGABON RAILROAD DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS EXIM  
**TAGS:** BEXP, GB  
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**Type:** TE  
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